
Title: Dark Offspring 2

Author: An old sage

It was a blissful summer day. Sigurd was wondering through the forest near his home when he heard the sound of a flute playing softly through the trees. Intrigued Sigurd went to investigate. As he peered through the trees he saw a beautiful maiden sitting on top of a large rock. Enchanted by the music, Sigurd crept forward until he was a few feet from her. At that point his foot slipped on the rock and he tumbled backwards. The frightened girl drew her dagger and pointed it cautiously at Sigurd. Sigurd, on the other hand, bounded for the trees and would have disappeared into the foliage had the girl not called to him. She realized that he was just as if not more frightened than she was. She was intrigued by this handsome youth, and after much coaxing convinced him to sit on the rock, albeit three feet from her. As they talked the girl told Sigurd that she was a bard from Britain and that she was on a quest to be as Compassionate

as she could possibly
be. The girl stayed
at a nearby inn and
daily visited Sigurd.
Over time he told her
about his heritage and
his fear of others.
Much to his surprise
she understood his
views and kindly
tried to convince him
that he was wrong,
and that there were
good people out there
who could see beyond
his heritage.
Although she failed
to convince Sigurd,
out their long chats
they developed a
strong mutual love for
one another. A few
months later, they
were married.

They lived happily
together for three
years and it seemed
that with each
passing day their love
grew stronger. One
day Sigurd's wife
announced that she
was going on a
pilgrimage to the
shrine of Compassion.
Sigurd, much
saddened, told her that
he could go with her.
His fear of others
was just too great.

A week later she
left, telling Sigurd
that she might be
gone for some time.
He begged her to be
careful and having
kissed, she rode off
into the forest...

Shortly thereafter,
a stranger came into
the village. She was
kept away from the
people and slept
through the day until
the sun began to set.
The townsfolk,
although they thought
her odd, were not too

troubled by her nature.
Then some of the
guards began
disappearing and blood
curdling howls pierced
the night. The
village elders sent a
petition to the Yew
Militia to check
things out but the
Militia was too busy
fending off orc
attacks at the time to
spare any of its
members to
investigate. Then
local captain of the
guard heard reports
that only a few of
his members were ever
on duty at night.
Surprised at this
sudden incompetence,
he hide in the
shadows that night to
see what the guards
were really doing.

The guards marched
out of the garrison as
they wer supposed to
and then headed off
into the depths of the
forest. The captain,
much desturbed,
followed them... From
then on the captain
was seen at the head
of his guards
marching off into the
forest at night. As
one can imagine, the
townsfolk had grown
extremely uneasy at
these occurances.
They did not now
where to turn.
Surprisingly enough
the one who was to
come to their aid had
the least desire to do
so.

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